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**PRESIDENT
GAMAL ABDEL - NASSER**

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PRESIDENT GAMAL ABDEL NASSER

BIOGRAPHY OF U.A.R. PRESIDENT

GAMAL ABDEL NASSER

President Gamal Abdel Nasser comes from the village of Beni Mur in the Governorate of Assiut — the native village of his family. The President was born on January 15, 1918 in the city of Alexandria and the first years of his life were spent in the village of Khatatba, Governorate of Beheira, where his father was working. He got his first schooling at the Khatatba Primary School, and got his Primary School Certificate from the Nahaseen Primary School in Cairo. The young student Gamal Abdel Nasser remained a boarder for one year at the Helwan Secondary School, after which he returned to Alexandria, where he entered Ras-el-Tine School.

It was at Ras-el-Tine Secondary School that young Gamal Abdel Nasser began his struggle against imperialism — at a time when he was barely fifteen years old. Reminiscing over this period of his life, President Gamal Abdel Nasser says: « I can still remember clearly my first encounter with authority... It was back in 1933, at a time when I was a young student barely fifteen years old. I was crossing Manshiya Square in Alexandria when I came upon a clash between a demonstration conducted by a few students and the occupation powers. I entered prison an enthusiastic student and I came out of it charged with pent-up anger. A long time elapsed before my thoughts, beliefs and plans crystallised, but even at this early moment in my life I knew that my country was engaged in a continuous struggle for its freedom. »

The student Gamal Abdel Nasser returned once more to Cairo

and entered Al-Nahda Secondary School, after the responsible authorities at Ras-el-Tine had tired of his activities. For after participating in his first political demonstration, he entered the field with all his heart and became head of the committee for organising the resistance, touring the streets of Alexandria with angry demonstrations. This, as President Gamal Abdel Nasser states, « was an inevitable outlet for our acute emotions and our feelings of the repression weighing heavily upon our country. »

In Cairo, Gamal Abdel Nasser resumed his revolutionary activities which he had begun in Alexandria. He led demonstrations against imperialism, demanding freedom and independence, and became a student leader in his school in 1935. In one of these demonstrations, Gamal Abdel Nasser received a blow from a stick of one of the policemen, which left a permanent mark on his brow in the shape of a crescent.

In 1936, Gamal Abdel Nasser took his Secondary School Certificate. He wanted to join the Military Academy but his application was turned down, so he entered the Faculty of Law. However, five months later the Military Academy announced its need for more students. Once again he applied and this time he was accepted.

Second-Lieutenant Gamal Abdel Nasser graduated in 1938, together with El-Sayed Zakariya Mohieddine — Vice-President — and El-Sayed Mohammed Anwar Al-Sadat — President of the National Assembly. Recalling this period, President Gamal Abdel Nasser says: « At that time the Egyptian Army was a non-combatant army, and it was in the interests of the British to keep it that way. However, after that came a new class of officers who regarded their future in the army as part of the struggle to liberate their people. The three of us — Gamal, Zakariya and Al-Sadat — were assigned to the outpost of Mankabad — a remote outpost near Assiut in Upper Egypt. We went to Mankabad full of ideals but

we were soon disappointed, as most of the officers were inefficient and corrupt. The shock led some of my fellow officers to resign. As for me, I found no point in resigning, although my resentment was no less than that of the others. My thoughts were directed instead towards reforming the army and liquidating from it all corrupt elements. »

In 1939, Gamal Abdel Nasser was transferred to Alexandria where he met Abdel Hakim Amer — the First Vice-President and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces — who shared with him his firmly rooted belief in the necessity for revolution and change.

The year 1942 was one of the most crucial years regarding the crystallisation of the Free Officers' Movement, which carried out the Revolution. On February 4th, of the same year the British forces surrounded Abdine Palace with their tanks and forced the king to appoint Mustafa Al-Nahass, prime minister and to empower him to form a British-sympathising Cabinet.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser refers to this inauspicious day in a letter which he sent to a friend, saying: « I wonder what we can do after this unfortunate incident which we have met with surrender characterised by submission. The true humiliation lies in the fact that imperialism has but one way with which to terrorise us — but once imperialism realises that the Egyptians are prepared to sacrifice themselves, it will retreat like a loud-mouthed coward. »

The year 1945 witnessed the beginning of the Free Officers' Movement — a movement which later on lit the torch of freedom in Egypt. Although the incident of February 4, 1942, began the indignation and resentment which brought the revolutionaries face to face with the urgent and inevitable necessity for their revolutionary movement, yet another incident occurred in 1948 — the Palestine war — which converted this indignation and the growing

resentment of the Free Officers into a tangible plan for revolution.

Until 1948, Gamal Abdel Nasser concentrated on the constitution of a nucleus composed of individuals whose discontent with current events was as strong as his — and who had sufficient courage and determination to carry out the necessary change. Of this period, President Gamal Abdel Nasser speaks as follows: « At that time we were a small group of sincere friends who tried to interpret our ideals into a common objective, a common plan. I read with great assiduity and almost devoured the books of such thinkers as Laski, Nehru, and Aneurin Bevan. Then gradually, socialist thoughts began to develop within me. »

The year 1948, was a decisive stage in the history of Gamal Abdel Nasser. In that year, the Arabs started to mobilise the group of volunteers in order to defend the rights of the Arab people of Palestine after Britain had colluded with world Zionism and handed over Palestine as an easy morsel to the Israelis. Gamal Abdel Nasser volunteered in this troop but the Egyptian Government declared war and thus he participated in it as officer in the infantry. President Gamal Abdel Nasser describes this period in the following terms: « The decision taken by the Government was the correct one but the method of its implementation was catastrophic. There was no coordination between the Arab armies while leadership on the highest level was almost non-existent. It proved that our arms were defective and in the middle of the battle orders were issued to the Engineers Corps to build a bathing hut for King Faruk in Gaza. Everything was conducted in a haphazard manner with the object of propaganda rather than true warfare. The movements of the Egyptian Armed Forces which were supposed to be effected in absolute secrecy were published in the newspapers before they were effected. This in many cases led to enemy attacks upon us. For example, orders were issued to Gamal Abdel Nasser to lead a force of infantry soldiers to the village of Arak Swidan which the Israelis were attacking. Before

the troops started moving, the planned movement was published in full in the Cairo newspapers. » Then came the siege of Falluga in which he participated: the Egyptian forces kept resisting despite the fact that the Israeli forces were much superior to them in number until the war was brought to an end by the armistice imposed by the United Nations.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser speaks of the effect of this battle on his revolutionary thought by saying: « I was almost killed in this war — I was wounded twice and, the second time, the bullet passed five centimetres under my heart. While I lay in my hospital bed many thoughts passed through my mind... It became clear that the real battle was actually in Egypt. While I and my companions were fighting in Palestine, the Egyptian politicians piled up their profits from the defective arms deal which they purchased cheap and sold to the army. It was necessary to concentrate the effort to strike at the Mohammed Aly dynasty. King Faruk was our first target from the end of 1948 to 1952. We established an organisation and coordinated our activities slowly. Guerrilla warfare was carried out in the Canal Zone to destroy British establishments. I know that the fact of not undertaking any major attempt to take over power before we were fully prepared was of vital importance to us. It was my intention that we should try to carry out our Revolution in 1955. However, events forced us to decide on carrying it out long before this date.

« The King and his entourage persisted in their corruption and the country came to the brink of total ruin after the Cairo fire on January 26, 1952, and the deterioration of the economic, social and political affairs of the country caused us to speed the Revolution. Then came the dawn of July 23, 1952, which, as stated in the National Charter, was the true beginning of a new and glorious stage in the history of the constant struggle of the Arab people in Egypt. » The day they began their glorious Revolution on July 23, 1952,

the Egyptian people turned their back for good on the outworn considerations which shattered their positive efforts. The people trod on the effects remaining from centuries of despotism and injustice. They definitely dropped all the negative factors which suppressed their will to reshape their life anew.

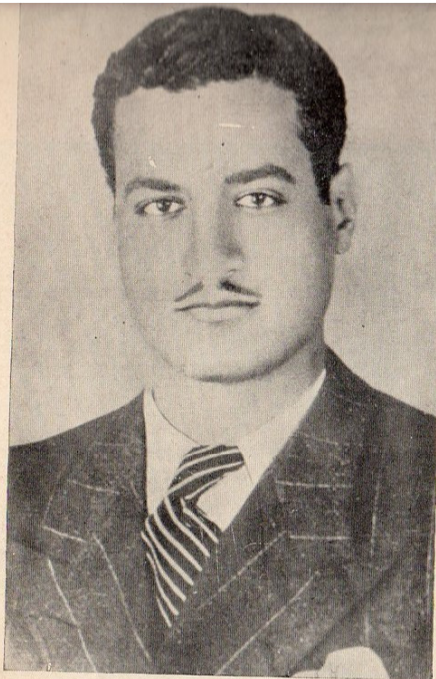
The staging and success of the Revolution was mostly due to Gamal Abdel Nasser. In his book «Nasser Hero of the National Revolution», Mr. Raul the Argentine writer states that :— «No revolution owes as much to the efforts of one man as the Egyptian Revolution owes to Gamal Abdel Nasser.»

* * *

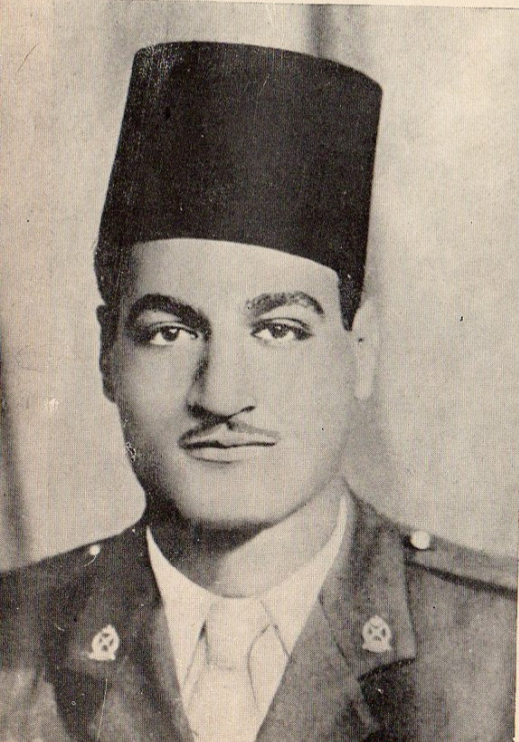
— The efforts of Gamal Abdel Nasser did not stop at the staging of the Revolution ; he went on to face the challenges of imperialism and reaction. He compelled the British to evacuate Egypt twice : the first time after the Evacuation Agreement of 1954 and the other after the unsuccessful tripartite aggression in which Britain, France and Israel participated following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal in 1956. The people, under the leadership of Gamal Abdel Nasser emerged from this battle victorious and stronger than ever.

— After liquidating imperialism and achieving political independence for Egypt, President Gamal Abdel Nasser led the Arab masses in the battles of military alliances from which he emerged victorious. He equally destroyed the military alliances whose object was to re-establish imperialist influence in Egypt. President Gamal Abdel Nasser could also define distinctly the role which he wanted for Egypt : Arab Nationalism in the Arab land by virtue of which cohesion can be effected after a long time of dissension — African co-operation to the furthest possible degree; for the Arab nation believes that it cannot turn its back on the





The student Gamal Abdel Nasser at Ras el Tine Secondary School, Alexandria, 1933.



The student Gamal Abdel Nasser at the Military Academy from which he graduated in 1938.

An Article written by the student Gamal Abdel Nasser in the Nahda Secondary School Magazine, Cairo, 1935.

فلتير (رجل الحرية)

بعد ذهاب كل به شيء من الأجداد كان فلتيير الذي سمى فرانسوا أوردى أمضى ثلاث سنين في
البحيرة وقد عاش سنة ١٧٧٩ بعد أن اضطر بكتانيته . وكانت مفاصله تنحصر في المحافظة على
مستغلة ككتاب وقد عاش فلتيير سنة ١٧٥٥ بالقرب من بلدة لبنان في مكان محبب به منزله
المسي دليس بالقرب من جمهورية جنيف . وبالقرب جدا لقرية المسي قربها . في فرنسا .
وكان يعيش في التصريح في غرات متقطعة
وكانت كل أوروبا تنوجه اليه بمبينا إذ كان
يملك نشاطا قويا ويتلقى زوارا عددين ويكتب رسائل
لا عدوا لها ويخط بريشته الحكيم والعلامة . والتدفق
في الكنيسة وعند التتبع وعند التناوب مما جعله
زعيمًا كاحد من زعماء المسي . ولقد عرف أموره
ومزاجه في سبيل حبه الوطني (الأوربي)
والدكان معه علمه ومنهجا . وكانت أقوى إنجازاته
مقصده ومذكراته وكانت أعماله الثورية تحت في
شبابه . من غير وفي عصر نوبس أربع عشر وفي
مصرع من الأمهات درس فيه المبادئ . وكان
أدريه كمنهجه قويا ثمرة . إذ كان محبا يتدفق حبه في روحه
وكان يملك روسيا فردريك الثاني ذو الشخصية المبدئية في بلاده بربان قد جسر بقلته من
الأسلحة المقتنين وكان يملك قصة خاصة أن الفرنسيين لأن هذه الأمة كانت تحتل في خلفه أهل
تألق أوروبا في هذه الأيام ولقد أضاف الي بلاده تسعين سنة من ١٧٥٠ : ١٧٥٣ أمير القرون
الثامن عشر التيلسوف فلتيير ولكن بعد فترة طويلة تشارك الملك والتيلسوف وطرد فلتيير من
السلطة وسط - حياه من التهاكم ولكن لا يتقوى أحد على نسيان الأعمال الوثائق بين محبي القرون
الثامن عشر السامعين أفعالهم أعمال شخصية عملية والآخر أكبر مسيطر على التفكير والتدبير
ومع أن الثورة عند ساعة البداية كانت عامة في القرون الثامن عشر إلا أن أسماء القوادير
حزلاء الثلاثة ضمنية . وكان من بين هؤلاء الثلاثة فلتيير وروسو الذين عملا أقوى الأسلحة
وأشدها فكا . وقد مهد من أي بعدا في ثورة الكبرى سنة ١٧٨٩
وقد مات فلتيير ودفن بجوار حافل في باريس
جمال عبد الناصر
٤ - قسم الآداب



President Gamal Abdel Nasser with his co-officers in Palestine ; an officer in the infantry.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser signs the
Evacuation Agreement with Britain in 1954.



President Gamal Abdel Nasser at the Bandung Conference
delivering his historical speech in which he called for
the policy of positive neutrality and non-alignment.



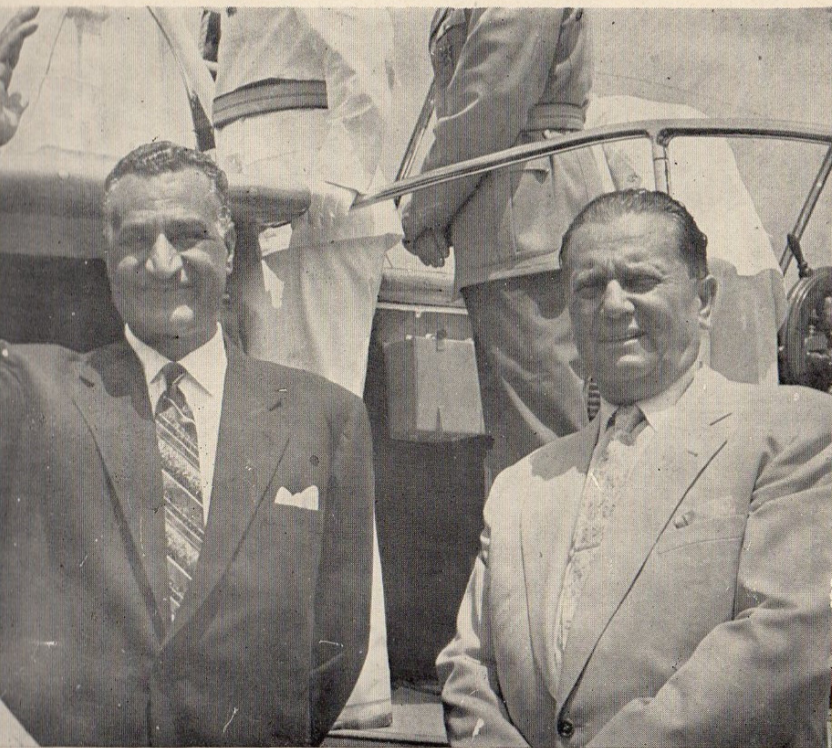
ent hoists the flag of victory
aid after the failure of the
gression on Egypt in 1956.

The President delivers from the pulpit of
Al Azhar his historical speech in which he
called for fighting until victory is achieved.





The President with Ahmed Sukarno, President of Indonesia.



In 1956, President Gamal Abdel Nasser participated in the Brioni Conference with President Tito to confirm the principles of Bandung.



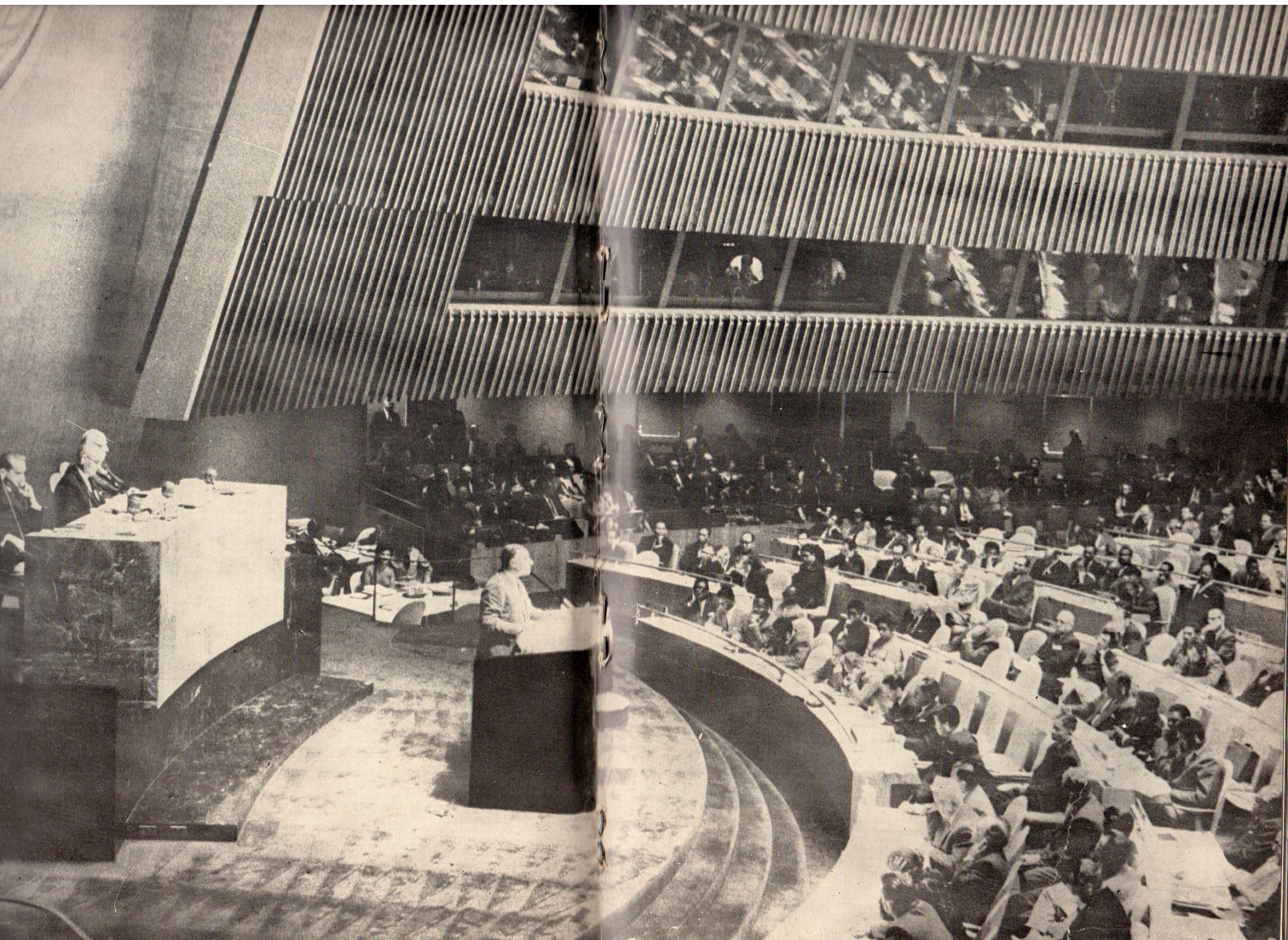
The President with Chou En Lai, Premier of the People's Republic of China.

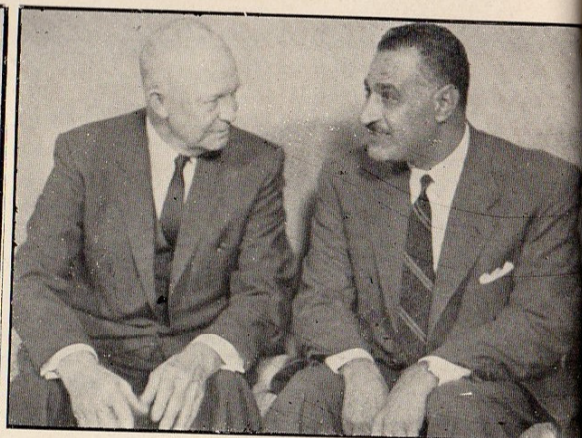
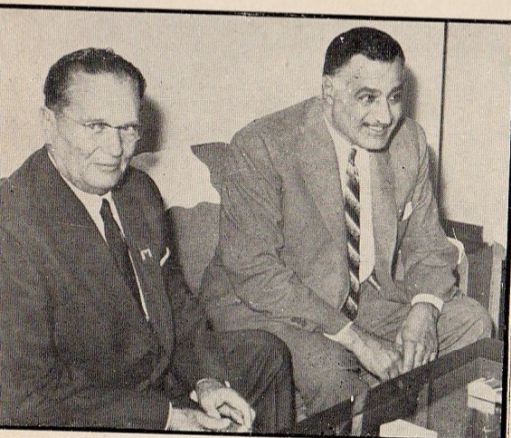


President Gamal Abdel Nasser at the Casablanca Conference in 1961.



The President with Modibo Keita, President of Mali and Ahmed Sekou Touré, President of Guinea.





Besides the conferences and meetings in which President Gamal Abdel Nasser participated for the consolidation of world peace and the assertion of the principle of non-alignment, he held many bilateral meetings with the leaders of the world.





In May 13, 1963, President Gamal Abdel Nasser left for Addis Ababa to attend the African Summit Conference. There, he planted the tree of friendship.



The President attending the session of the National Assembly.





The President at the Non-Alignment Conference in Cairo, 1964.

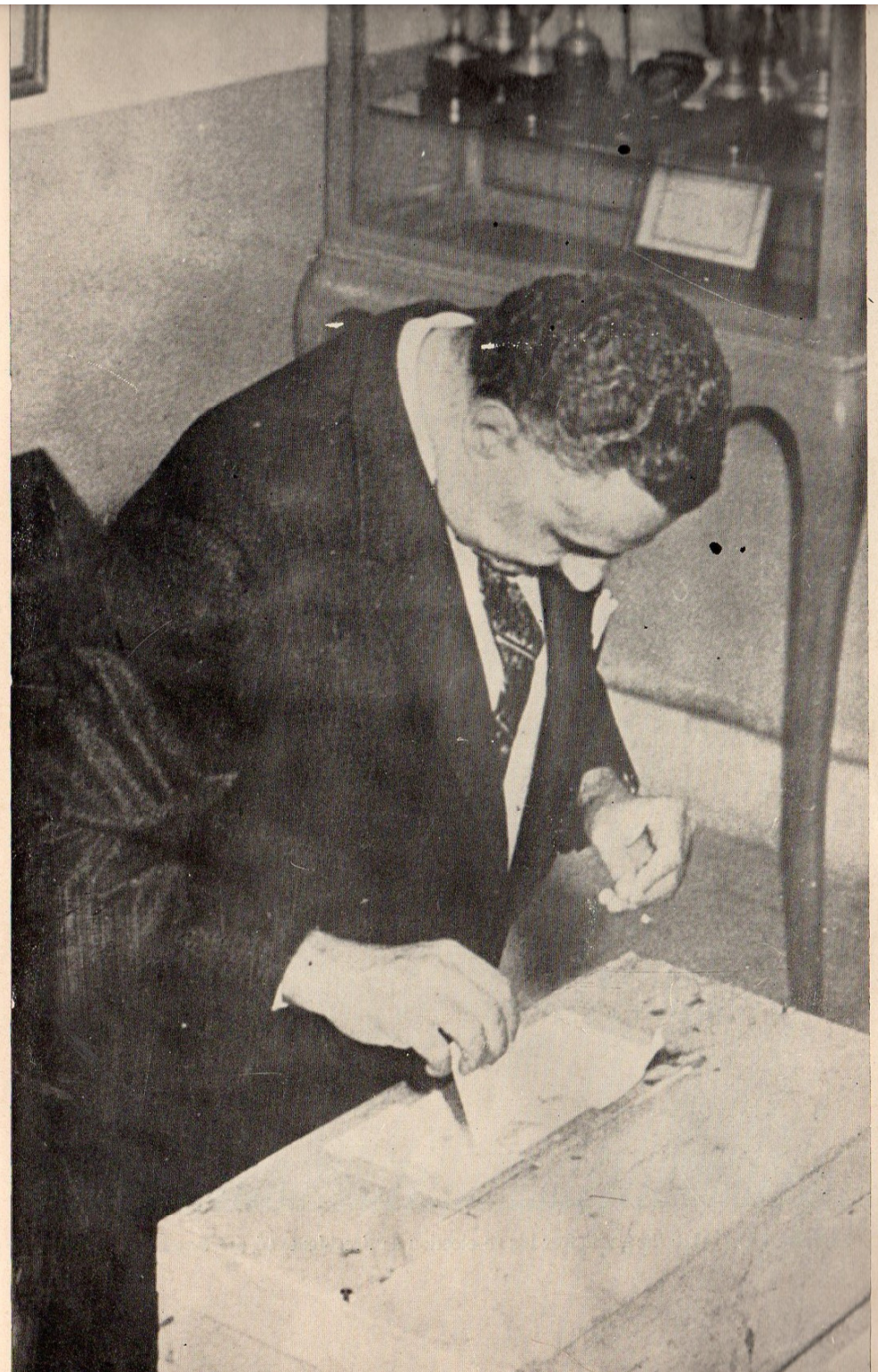


Signing the Union Agreement between the U.A.R. and Iraq.

The President greets the masses of the people.



The President gives his vote in the plebiscite.





The President takes the oath after his re-election as President of the Republic.

continent of which it is part, and whose northern door it guards. — Non-alignment on the international level so as to ensure its independence in a world torn by interests and blocs and ever threatened by a nuclear war that may annihilate it completely. In view of all these principles upon which our foreign policy was founded, President Gamal Abdel Nasser took part in many international conferences and went on a number of trips with a view to raising high the torch of this call everywhere.

— In 1955 President Gamal Abdel Nasser attended the Bandung Conference ; in fact, President Nasser's attendance was one of the important factors which led to the success of the Conference, saved it from the imperialist conspiracies which desired its complete failure, and worked for the prevention of any Afro-Asian concord. It was also in this Conference that President Gamal Abdel Nasser called for the principle of positive neutrality.

— In 1956, President Nasser, together with President Tito and the late Premier Nehru, participated in the Brioni Conference for the confirmation of the principles of Bandung.

— In 1960, he attended the session of the United Nations General Assembly which was also attended by many other Heads of State. There, he called for freedom, progress and peace based on justice.

— In 1961 President Abdel Nasser attended the first Non-Alignment Conference for which he was one of the first advocates. He established the principles of non-alignment in the international field ; this principle which many states first fought and later recognised as the only possible way of saving the world from the possibility of a nuclear war.

— In May 1963 President Nasser flew to Addis Ababa in

order to attend the Conference of African leaders in the course of which the African Unity Organisation took shape.

— With regard to Palestine, and the unified Arab action for the confrontation of the gangster state in occupied Palestine, the first Arab Summit Conference was held in Cairo in January 1964, in answer to President Nasser's call for the convening of the Conference.

— In July 1964, the first meeting of the African Unity Organisation was held in Cairo ; African leaders and Heads of State attended the meeting. In the course of the meetings the bonds of cooperation between the African states were confirmed and the road was open for the possibilities of unity among these states.

— In September 1964, the Second Arab Summit Conference was held in Alexandria for the consolidation of the unified action for saving Palestine.

— In October 1964, the Second Non-Alignment Conference was held in Cairo. The course of this Conference was a good victory for President Gamal Abdel Nasser together with all advocates of the principle of non-alignment, as the number of the states participating in the conference rose to 48 states, as compared with 23 at the First Conference held in Belgrade.

In addition to all these conferences and meetings which President Abdel Nasser either attended or called for, in view of the consolidation of world peace as well as the confirmation of the principle of non-alignment in the international field — President Abdel Nasser held many bilateral meetings with the leaders of the world.

He visited Yugoslavia, Greece, India, Pakistan, Burma, the Sudan, Morocco, Algeria, the Soviet Union and other states.

There, he met the Heads of these States to seek peaceful solutions for world problems.

If President Gamal Abdel Nasser's call and efforts in the Arab, African and international field won for him respect and appreciation and made the whole world look to him and to Cairo in order to seek his opinion in every crisis and problem — his efforts in the internal field have actually reshaped life on this land on the basis of sufficiency and justice.

— On the 9th of September 1952 the first Agrarian Reform Law was issued by virtue of which, the farmer was, for the first time in history, freed from the shackles of feudalism, and his enslavement to the land owner. Moreover, the farmer recovered his dignity which had suffered throughout the ages, due to the pressure of poverty, ignorance, illness and feudalism. The land was distributed among the poor farmers. Indeed this law was the greatest challenge to feudalism and reaction a few days after the advent of the Revolution.

— In July 1961, the Socialist Laws which transferred the ownership of the means of production to the people, were proclaimed. These Socialist Laws equally amended the land ownership law and limited maximum ownership to 100 feddans. Besides, by virtue of these laws, the workers were given their rights in the management of the factories as well as in sharing in the production profits.

— In the field of construction, Egypt, since 1957, managed to set up more than 800 factories, under the leadership of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Now preparations are being made to start implementing the second Five-Year Plan whose allocation will be mostly devoted to heavy industries.

In addition, the High Dam is being built — the greatest Dam modern history ever witnessed — this Dam which bears evidence

of our people's strong will which was able to challenge all material and moral impediments and which, likewise, overcame natural difficulties, in order to establish this Dam which will supply Egypt with tremendous electric power, in addition to the reclamation of another 2 million feddans.

— The United Arab Republic is now producing missiles and aircraft and many of the tools and equipment which were formerly imported from abroad. Its present motto in industry is « From needles to missiles. »

In the midst of internal and external battles, President Gamal Abdel Nasser did not forget one of the important principles of the Revolution which is : the establishment of a sound democratic life

— Since its first day, the record of the Revolution bears evidence of the continuous quest of Gamal Abdel Nasser for the best means of realising democracy for the people. The Liberation Rally was formed including all categories without distinction, for a single purpose :— the war for liberation and driving out the imperialists from Egypt. Contradictions then arose between the people and the reactionary forces, thus the National Union was founded and finally the great social Revolution was effected through the socialist decrees of 1961. The Arab Socialist Union was established including the working powers of the people ; workers, farmers, educated people, national capital and soldiers, following the isolation of the feudal forces which co-operated with the opportunist capitalists supported by imperialism and foreign reaction. The formations of the A.S.U. were formed at all levels and elections took place for the first National Assembly, in which half of the members were constituted by workers and farmers.

— In January 1965 the people — with all their categories — represented in their National Assembly, affirmed by popular demonstrations which went out expressing their opinion all

throughout Egypt their desire to nominate President Gamal Abdel Nasser for the new term of office. Two months later, in March, 1965, the people unanimously elected Gamal Abdel Nasser as President of the United Arab Republic, renewing their pledge, of faith in him to continue the mission to which he dedicated his life.

On March 15, a plebiscite was held and President Gamal Abdel Nasser obtained 99,999% of the total votes, which is a proof of the people's trust in the leader who emerged from their ranks in order to restore their dignity, raise their prestige and make their word reach international spheres. This leader has given life to this Revolution and accepted to serve in the place chosen for him by the people, for the rebuilding of life on the land of Egypt and for a better future for the Arabs.

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